



THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION

May 13, 2005

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Representative
United States House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hoyer:

I write on behalf of The After-school Corporation (TASC) to support the Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2005, H.R. 2207/S. 986, authorizing funding for full-service community schools. Funding these public elementary and secondary schools is necessary in order to coordinate multiple federal, state and/or local educational and social service programs through community-based organizations and public/private partnerships.

This funding will improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to children and families. To do so, the bill authorizes a competitive grant program to communities. Local grantees must include a local educational agency and one or more community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, or other public/private entities.

TASC funds after school programs operated by community based organizations throughout New York State. Today, TASC supports more than 300 after-school programs in schools across New York State serving more than 55,000 students. In 1998, TASC started with a \$125 million grant from the Open Society Institute and to date has leveraged more than \$375 million in public and private funds to support after-school programs. The Full Service Community Schools Act will provide a necessary complement to the programs that TASC already funds. Through these additional funds, community based organizations will be able to expand their programs to serve more children throughout New York State.

I applaud your efforts to introduce this legislation and appreciate your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy N. Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lucy N. Friedman
President